

Some Suggestions for Preparation

1. Begin with prayer. Psalm 119, v. 10-18 an excellent choice.

or

“Lord, open my lips, my mouth will proclaim your praise” is an easy to remember verse from Psalm 51.

2. Review all readings for the Mass on the day you are to proclaim. Include the Old Testament reading, the responsorial psalm, the New Testament reading and the Gospel. This gives you an overall sense of the dominant “themes” of the readings. Your reading is not isolated, but a part of the whole liturgy—the whole celebration.

3. Look at the context of the readings. That is, go to the Bible and read what comes before and after your assigned reading. This helps to understand the selection and helps you to know how best to proclaim.

4. Read the notes in the Workbook for Lectors, they help you to understand, as well as give some excellent suggestions for how to proclaim that reading.

5. Practice. Practice. Practice. Read to yourself; eventually proclaim it standing up and reading out loud, like a dress rehearsal.

What words or phrases cause you to stumble? How can you plan to avoid the stumble?

Where will you pause? For how long?

Where will you take breaths?

How fast should you go? How slow?

Is it a story? A poem? A song? A narrative?

You do not memorize the passage. But, you do need to know it well enough that you are able to look up frequently, and readily find your place when you look back down at the book. The Workbook for Lectors has the type and layout that is identical to the lectionary.

6. On Sunday morning, practice again out loud before leaving home for Church.

7. Arrive at church early, *at least* 15 minutes before Mass begins. You are a prophet, dress the part! Remember, be transparent, not a distraction. Sign in and then stay in the sacristy until the other reader arrives so you can coordinate which reading or other tasks you will do. Check with the Sacristan to see if anything special is taking place today, such as Children's Liturgy of the Word.

8. Sit near the front of the Church. During Mass, actively and actually participate in the whole celebration! You are setting an example; others look to you as a leader and minister.

9. Follow the Guidelines for Lectors by the parish.

10. Seek and accept criticism, from experienced readers as well as anyone willing to give it!